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SUBJECT: TEXTING AND DRIVING ILLEGAL IN LATVIA

Ref: STATE 6703

The use of cell phones while driving is illegal in Latvia but statistics on enforcement are scarce. We delivered reftel points to officials at Latvia's Road and Traffic Safety Directorate (CSDD), a unit of the Ministry of Transportation. The use of cell phones and text messaging is widespread in Latvia, but there is no good data on the prevalence of distracted driving. The CSDD noted that data on crashes or injuries resulting from texting while driving would only be based on unreliable self-reporting. The CSDD did run a one-time campaign in the summer of 2008 to raise awareness of the dangers of texting and driving, but is currently focusing its public awareness resources on drunk driving and use of seatbelts.

GARBER